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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/670,184

09/24/2003

Tim Keith

2976-4039US3

2818

27123

7590

07/06/2006

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EXAMINER

SAOUD, CHRISTINE J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1647

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/670,184	KEITH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christine J. Saoud	1647	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21, 23-64 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

In reviewing Applicant's election of invention from 27 June 2006, it was noted that Group II included not only protein of SEQ ID NO:5, but also antibodies that bind the protein. These molecules are both physically and functionally distinct and should have been restricted one from the other. In order to afford Applicant the opportunity to elect the invention of their choice, the restriction requirement mailed 28 April 2006 is vacated and a new restriction is set forth below.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-15, 20-21 and 27, drawn to nucleic acid molecules, classified in at least class 435, subclass 69.1, for example.
- II. Claims 16-19 and 60-62, drawn to polypeptides, classified in class 530, subclass 350, for example.
- III. Claims 23-26, 32-59 and 63-64, drawn to antibodies and compositions thereof, classified in at least class 424, subclass 130.1, for example.
- IV. Claim 28, drawn to a method of identifying or obtaining a chromosome 20p13-p12 gene, classified in class 435, subclass 6, for example.
- V. Claims 29 and 31, drawn to a method of treating a disorder with a binding compound, classified in at least class 424, subclass 130.1, for example.
- VI. Claim 30, drawn to a method of treating a disorder with an agonist to a polynucleotide, classified in class undetermined, subclass undetermined (the nature and structure of the agonist is not disclosed, therefore, classification is not possible).
- VII. Claim 31, drawn to a method of treating a disorder with an antagonist to a polynucleotide, classified in class undetermined, subclass undetermined (the nature and structure of the antagonist is not disclosed, therefore, classification is not possible).

Further Restriction Requirement Applicable to Inventive Groups Above

Additionally, each of Groups I-VII named above is subject to a further restriction. Applicant is required to further select (1) a single specific nucleic acid molecule from SEQ ID NOs: 1-3, 7, and Table 10; or (2) a single specific single nucleotide polymorphism from Table 10; or (3) a single specific polypeptide from SEQ ID NOs: 4-6 for examination. With regard to the election of a specific molecule having a specific sequence, different nucleotide and polypeptide molecules are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These molecules, each with its own unique sequence, are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleic acid molecule and polypeptide are presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141. By statute, "[i]f two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application, the Commissioner may require the application to be restricted to one of the inventions." 35 U.S.C. 121. Pursuant to this statute, the rules provide that "[i]f two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application, the examiner in his action shall require the applicant ... to elect that invention to which his claims shall be restricted." 37 CFR 1.142 (a). See also 37 CFR 1.141(a).

The search and examination of all possible groups would pose a serious burden on the examiner and on the PTO search resources. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as

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demonstrated by their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter due to all of the inventions' different nucleic acid and polypeptide sequences would require different searches that are not coextensive, examination of these claims would pose a serious burden on the examiner and therefore the restriction is deemed proper.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polynucleotides of Group I could be used in an entirely different method, such as in a method of detection of the polynucleotide in a sample, rather than in a method of making the polypeptide.

Inventions II and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polypeptide of Group II could be used for an entirely different purpose such as in a therapeutic method, rather than for the production of antibodies of Group III.

Inventions I-III are also are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together, or they have different modes of

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operation, or they have different functions, or they have different effects. (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are directed to chemically different compounds which can be made and used without each other. Furthermore, the inventions of Groups I-III lack a common utility which is based upon a common special technical feature which is disclosed as being responsible for the common utility.

Inventions I and IV are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(9)). In the instant case, the nucleic acids of Group I may be synthesized chemically, rather in the method of Group IV.

Inventions I and (V-VII) are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together, or they have different modes of operation, or they have different functions, or they have different effects. (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are not required one for the other in that the nucleic acids of Group I are not required for the methods of Groups (V-VII).

Inventions II and (IV-VII) are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together, or they have different modes of operation, or they have different functions, or they have different effects. (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are not

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required one for the other in that the polypeptides of Group II are not required for the methods of Groups (IV-VII).

Inventions III and V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the antibodies of Group III could be used in an entirely different manner, such as in a method of detection of the polypeptide rather than in the method of Group V.

Inventions III and (IV, VI-VII) are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together, or they have different modes of operation, or they have different functions, or they have different effects. (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are not required one for the other in that the antibodies of Group III are not required for the methods of Groups VI-VII.

Inventions IV-VII) are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together, or they have different modes of operation, or they have different functions, or they have different effects. (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are directed to distinct methods which have different starting materials, different goals, different modes of operation, and different effects.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and the necessity for non-coextensive literature searches, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Rejoinder

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where Applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04.

Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or notice of allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine J. Saoud whose telephone number is 571-272-0891. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6AM-2PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback can be reached on 571-272-0961. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CHRISTINE J. SAOUD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine J. Saoud".